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ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING GUIDE

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REVIEW

Vienna In Southland

By A.K.W.

When Vienna comes to Southern California there is joy among those who delight in charm, nostalgia and hauntingly familiar music.

They were out en mass for the opening Monday night of Johann Strauss' "Weiner Blut" or "Vienna Life" in the Greek Theatre. This last operetta by the waltz-king Johann Strauss brought a complete Viennese company in its American debut produced by James A. Doolittle, general director of the Greek Theatre Association.

The story of the confusion caused by Count Zedlau's dalliance with the ballerina Franziska Cagliari, the mannequin Pepi as well as his own wife, the Countess, is a delightful spoof of Viennese manners and morals of the 19th century. Maria Kowa as the Countess is lovely to see, quite a good actress and has a perfect soprano voice for the role. Clementine Mayer and Dagmar Koller as Cagliari and Pepi respectively are completely in character. Erwin V. Gross as the Count has a rather too harsh voice to blend as well as it should. Joseph, his valet, is delightfully created by Helmut Vallner, a former member of the Viennese Choirboys. Wilhelm Popp is excellent as the Prime Minister as is Hugo Lindinger as Kagler. Martino Stamos, as the Italian minister, has a very fine voice, and sings superbly the "Legunenwalzer." The production is produced with charm and beauty by Harold A. Hoeller.

Strauss' melodies such as the lovely "Wiener Blut," "Wiener Frauen Singen Gern," "So nimm, Mein Susser Schatz" and, of course, "An der Schonen Blauen Donau" and the stirring "Accelerationwalzer" help to make an evening in the Greek Theatre well worth while. The company remains through Saturday.



LEADING DANCERS . . . Patricia McBride and Edward Vilella dance "Tarantella" pas de deux in its Los Angeles premiere next Monday when New York City Ballet company opens at the Greek Theatre.

Hospitality consists in a little fire, a little food, and an immense quiet.



Over the TABLE TOPS

By Audrey Kearns

During the period of the first French Republic, during the years when Napoleon was making a name for himself on the battlefield, the month between July 19 and Aug. 17 was known as the 11th month, called thermidor. The first republic is long gone and France again is in step with the rest of the world—at least as far as the calendar and cuisine are concerned—but the name Thermidor has been immortalized by the world's best chefs by Lobster Thermidor.

This superb shell fish dish actually was created by a chef who served it to Napoleon when he was Emperor. When asked for the name of the dish, in deference to Napoleon, the chef said it was known as "Lobster a La Napoleon" but the Emperor demurred, saying anything so delicious should be called Lobster Thermidor.

THIS FAMOUS dish is on the regular dinner menu at Millie Riera's Seafood Grotto on the Esplanade, where you certainly do not have to be an Emperor to enjoy its succulent goodness. Traditionally Lobster Thermidor is prepared from live lobsters, which, after being cleaned, seasoned, and slowly broiled, has the meat removed from the shells and cut in small pieces. A delicate cream sauce is poured in the shell, to which has been added a soupçon of English mustard. The lobster meat is returned to the sauce-filled shell, more sauce added, plus paprika to

taste. The whole is then glazed under the flame and, if desired, a little sherry wine is added at the last moment. No wonder Napoleon was delighted with such a creation! And at the Seafood Grotto the entire dinner, featuring Lobster Thermidor, costs just \$3.75.

Incidentally, Millie is having a special black-top parking lot created right next to the Seafood Grotto for the convenience of her patrons.

SMALL WORLD. Paul New, the young singer and musician who just brought his musical group into CAESAR'S RESTAURANT'S APOLLO ROOM, attended Loyola University here although he originally came from St. Louis. Turns out that Paul is the son of a good friend, Joseph New, formerly one of the managers of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles and now manager of the El Mirador in Sacramento.

SPECIAL DINNERS for little braves and squaws, and high chairs for papooses, are always on hand at Smith Bros.' new INDIAN VILLAGE RESTAURANT in Torrance, which is maintaining continuity with the former Fish Shanty by presenting the same excellent service and American food. There's a teepee-shaped menu for braves and maidens under 12 to choose from among nine different specialties. Wigwam dinners, mostly priced at 1.50 w a p u m and 1.75 w a m p u m, include a choice from the Pocahontas Cart.



IT'S A WHOPPER, GRANNY, is what Max Baer said to Irene Ryan yesterday when CBS-TV's "Beverly Hillbillies" filmed a sequence at Marineland of the Pacific Luncheonette found Irene, Max and the rest of the cast relaxing at George Foster's Marineland Restaurant.

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Front Row, Center

In order to keep the beautiful Huntington Hartford Theater in Hollywood from destruction and to develop it as a non-profit community project to become a permanent part of the cultural life of Los Angeles, JAMES A. DOOLITTLE tells me that the GREEK THEATER ASSOCIATION will re-open the theater.

The 1964-1965 season will

have its gala opening Sept. 21 with Sir Tyrone Guthrie's Royal Production of the Stratford Festival's "H.M.S. Pinafore."

SHADOWS OF FUTURE: Casting and rehearsals are going forward for the Long Beach Civic Light Opera's production of "The King and I" which they will present in October . . . Shakespeare's Year received great theatrical impetus by the presentation in the Pilgrimage Theatre on Cahuenga Pass of Morris Carnovsky in "King Lear" while at the Theatre By the Sea the great play "Othello" will take over the boards later this month . . . Tomorrow night director Maurice Abravanel conducts the Symphony Under the Stars in the Hollywood Bowl, with opera stars Mary Costa and Jan Peerce as soloists. Antonio and Les Ballets de Madrid move into the Bowl Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday nights.



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